

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Friedrich Loeffler Institute,  
Riems Island

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The Institute for Animal Disease Research on Riems Island is also known as the Friedrich Loeffler Institute. It is a part of the East German Academy for Agricultural Sciences. The main purpose of the Institute, as its name implies, is to conduct research on various animal diseases and pestilences caused by virus propagation.

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2. In order to get to the island, and thus to enter the Institute, it is necessary to procure a pass which is issued to each person by name. No pass without name or corresponding identification is issued. The island of Riems is located some 300 to 500 meters from the mainland, about 20 kilometers north of Greifswald. Passes are checked by a Volkspolizei guard at the gate on the mainland. The guard telephones the Institute on the island to verify the validity of the pass. A motorboat is used to transport personnel and equipment to and from the island. During inclement weather, a small overhead cable car is utilized.

3. The main building of the Institute is located about 200 meters from the point of debarkation. It is a two-story building, square shaped, with an inner patio. The front side of the building houses some of the administrative offices as well as some of the laboratories. In the two side wings are more laboratories and offices, as well as showers and cabins for changing clothes. This is to ensure sterilization of the bodies and clothing of those entering or leaving the laboratory section. The back wing contains stables for animals, but only a few are there at present. The four wings of the building are each about 60 to 80 meters long.

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4. Staff members and visitors are required to shower and change into sterile clothing before entering the research and laboratory section of the Institute. They change back when going to lunch at the Institute cafeteria, which is located in a smaller building adjacent to the main building complex. A majority of the staff resides on the island itself in various detached or duplex houses or in settlements. On the mainland, close to the boat landing, are further settlements for staff personnel and workers at the Institute. The remainder of the personnel reside in Greifswald and are transported daily by special bus to and from their place of employment.

5. The Institute is staffed by the following scientific personnel:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Prof. Heinz Roehrer    | President of the Institute   |
| Dr. Heinig (fnu)       | Deputy President of the Institute  |
| Dr. Koetsche (fnu)     | Section of the Chief   |
| Frl. Dr. Fischer (fnu) | Section of the Chief   |
| Dr. Potel (fnu)        | Chief of the Pathological Department   |
| Dr. Korn (fnu)         | Assistant Chief of the Pathological Dept.  |
| Teubner (fnu)          | Chief of the Administrative and Purchasing Department (Believed to be the SED member assigned to the Institute.) |
| Prof. Gottfried Pyl    | Chief of the Chemical Department   |
| Dr. Grahlagr (fnu)     | Assistant Chief of the Chemical Department   |
| Dr. Hamann (fnu)       |  |
| Dr. Bintrig (fnu)      | Chief of the Microbiological Department  |
| Dr. Matthias (fnu)     | Chief of the Serum Research Dept.  |
| Dr. Schmidt (fnu)      |  |
| Dr. Pehl (fnu)         | Chief of Hog Cholera (Schweinepest) Dept.  |
| Frl. Dr. Hasse (fnu)   | Photo Lab Technician   |
| Dr. Vetterlein (fnu)   |  |

In addition to the scientific personnel listed above, there are an unspecified number of laboratory technicians and assistants, as well as other workers, stable help, and farm hands.

6. There are no industries or activities on the island of Riems except the animal research institute; this enables the Institute to completely control access to the island. The exact number of people living on the island is not known. Previously East German cattle which had been infected were transported to the Institute on the hoof, if possible. There the cattle were slaughtered and samples of the various infections taken. In about summer or fall 1954, this practice was discontinued. Now the infected cattle are slaughtered elsewhere, but research concerning their infections is still conducted in the Institute. In spite of the elaborate security precautions prevailing at the Institute, officials there deny that any secret research projects were or are being conducted at the installation. According to these officials, the Institute limits itself to virus research.
7. The Chemical Department and Laboratories are conducting tests with ultra-violet rays up to 260 millimicrons at the present time. The general purpose of these tests is to determine how long bacteria can survive under such ray exposure. The Chemical Department is also conducting research on cell tissue cores (Zellgewebekerne) in order to determine their size. For another series of tests, the chemical laboratories are attempting to procure a spectrophotometer. In addition, a microelectrophoresismeter, costing some 65,000 DMZ, is

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also being procured for the Institute. It is believed that this instrument will also be used by the chemical department. <sup>1</sup>

8. There is nothing specific known regarding the tests being conducted at present by the other laboratories and departments of the Institute, except that Dr. Matthias of the Serum Research Department is interested in obtaining an Bioinger projector [REDACTED]

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9. The Institute for Animal Disease Research, in contrast to many other scientific institutes of East Germany, seems to have more funds available for purchasing instruments and equipment and seems to be authorized to purchase equipment needed to further its research activities without specific prior approval or authorization by higher government echelons.

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